

Sharon Energy Committee

Monday, September 27th, 2021 @ 05:30 PM

Sharon Town Office

2021-09-27 17:30

Draft Minutes

This meeting was held through teleconference and in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.

Energy Committee members present: Ryan Haac

Energy Committee members attending remotely: Dee Gish

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:38 (5:38 PM).

1. **Public Comment Period**

No public. No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Minutes from prior meeting (2021-08-23 17:30) approved. Others deferred to a future meeting with more complete attendance.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Since the last Energy Committee meeting, EEI presented their results to the Selectboard. The information they presented was a “big picture” of all the Town buildings and a “menu” of potential options. Subsequently, Ryan and Geoff met with the Selectboard at the following Selectboard meeting to discuss their approach to the information. The SB was interested in more information for the Baxter Library and Town Offices; Geoff will request that EEI move forward with scheduling an additional visit and getting more specifics on each project. The SB also expressed interest in understanding the specific “code violations” that were found in the buildings, as they felt it would be important to address these, as well.

Additionally, Ryan had passed on a grant opportunity (90% funding for 10% match) from Efficiency Vermont to several businesses in Town; he was alerted to the fast-turnaround grant opportunity by Geoff. Andrew Lane from The Sharon Academy responded quickly and put together an application for some efficiency upgrades that they had been considering for several months – HVAC controls and LED lighting upgrades. The SB approved the 10% match at the first SB meeting. At the following, Andrew notified us that they were awarded the grant, worth over twenty-five thousand dollars in grant funding!

4. **Energy Savings Outreach Project**

Vital Communities is running the Energy Savings project again this year. Ryan relayed his intention to participate again this year, seeing how beneficial the program was for some folks. It involves untangling and illuminating the support programs available in Vermont and directing folks who need them to the programs that are most helpful for their situation. He is looking for a volunteer to lead this effort this year.

5. **Legislative Update from Jill**

Jill was not present. Dee said Tim Briglin was speaking about the Vermont Climate Council's process in Strafford the following evening (9/29).

6. **Actions on climate change and Real carbon solutions**

Dee convened an informal meeting with some folks in Sharon concerned about climate change in Sharon. We met over the weekend and discussed several items as supporting the farmers in our town, Regeneration Corps, composting/educational programs at the schools in town, getting involved in the Every Town Neighbors program, and also resiliency planning in regard to slowing water down so that large rain events do not overwhelm our creeks and river.

7. **Other business**

None discussed.

8. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 25th, 2021 (2021-10-25 17:30)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM.